



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER

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Organic Certification Fee Schedule

A Nonrefundable **\$25 Application Fee** is required for all Business Types.
(Submitted with Organic Certification Questionnaire/Application)

Organic Certification Business Type

Producer (Land Areas Based on Acres)

Initial Certification

Less than 5 acres	\$150
5 to 25 acres	200
Over 25 acres	300
Each additional increment of 25 acres	50

Annual Update

Less than 5 acres	\$ 75
5 to 25 acres	100
Over 25 acres	150
Each additional increment of 25 acres	50

Producer (Land Areas Based on Square Feet)

Initial Certification

Less than 250 sq.ft.	\$100
250 sq.ft. - 1,000 sq. ft.	150
Over 1,000 sq. ft.	200
Each additional increment of 250 sq.ft.	50

Annual Update

Less than 250 sq.ft.	\$ 50
250 sq.ft. - 1,000 sq. ft	75
Over 1,000 sq. ft.	100
Each additional increment of 250 sq.ft.	50

Handler/Processor

Initial Certification / Annual Update

Handler/Processor	\$500
Handler - Distributor only	300

DEFINITIONS

Organic Certification

Each production or handling operation or specified portion of a production or handling operation that produces or handles crops, livestock, livestock products, or other agriculture/horticulture/forestry products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “100 percent organic”, “organic”, or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” must be certified. Exemptions and exclusions from certification noted below.

Producer – Land Areas Based on Acres

A person who engages in the business of growing or producing animals, food, fiber, feed, and other agriculture/horticulture/forestry products, including wild-crops. Limited on farm processing is allowed under this section.

Producer – Land Areas Based on Square Feet

A person who engages in the business of growing or producing animals, food, fiber, feed, and other agriculture/horticulture/forestry products, including wild-crops where phases of production occur within limited indoor or outdoor production areas. Production based on square feet includes nursery or other agricultural production in greenhouses, mushroom production in indoor/outdoor facilities, or livestock production in indoor/outdoor facilities. Limited on farm processing is allowed under this section.

Handler/Processor

A person who engages in the business or portion of the business of receiving or otherwise acquiring organic products to distribute, handle, process, or package such products.

Handler – Distributor Only

A person who in engages in the business or portion of the business of receiving or otherwise acquiring organic products to store, warehouse, forward, ship, transship or otherwise move such products through commerce. Distributors do not process, package, or otherwise alter the products prior to passing the product through commerce.

EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS FROM CERTIFICATION

A production or handling operation that sells agricultural products as "organic" but whose gross agricultural income from organic sales totals \$5,000 or less annually is exempt from certification. The products from such operations shall not be used as ingredients identified as organic in processed products produced by another handling operation.

A handling operation that is a retail food establishment or portion of a retail food establishment that handles organically produced agricultural products but does not process them is exempt from certification.

A handling operation or portion of a handling operation that only handles agricultural products that contain less than 70 percent organic ingredients by total weight of the finished product (excluding water and salt) is exempt from certification.

A handling operation or portion of a handling operation that only identifies organic ingredients on the information panel is exempt from certification.

A handling operation or portion of a handling operation is excluded from certification if such operation or portion of the operation only sells organic agricultural products labeled as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" that: 1) are packaged or otherwise enclosed in a container prior to being received or acquired by the operation; and 2) remain in the same package or container and are not otherwise processed while in the control of the handling operation.

A handling operation that is a retail food establishment or portion of a retail food establishment that processes, on the premises of the retail food establishment, raw and ready-to-eat food from agricultural products that were previously labeled as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" is excluded from certification.